

## Tronox NAUM Stakeholders Meeting Summary

Thursday, March 2, 2017 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

BIA Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room 1011

1001 Indian School Road NW, Albuquerque, NM

### Overall Outcomes for this meeting:

- 1) Gain understanding of current and upcoming activity status and identify how we can work together
- 2) Understand the National Remedy Review Board process
- 3) Continue our discussion on remedy options

Representatives from the following agencies attended the meeting:

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (as Presenter)
- Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA)
- Navajo Nation Department of Justice (NNDJ)
- Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President (NNOPVP)
- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)
- New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (NMMMD)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regions 6 and 9 (U.S. EPA)

Participants: see sign-in sheet<sup>1</sup> (p15-16)

### Summary

*Approximately 45 people gathered on March 2, 2017 in Albuquerque for the Tronox Joint Agency Stakeholders' meeting. The focus was on sharing current project statuses and identifying key activities; reviewing project timelines; discussing remedy options; presenting information on the National Remedy Review Board process and the San Mateo Mine closure case study; and providing a financial update.*

### Action Items Identified During the Meeting

What	Who	By When	Status
1. Provide NNEPA with the report on Quivira CRL	Mark Ripperda	April 28, 2017	
2. Add the presence of exploratory pipes at drill holes at Quivira site (and other sites) to the weekly NNEPA/U.S. EPA conference call agenda. Follow up on this topic at the next upcoming conference call	Mark Ripperda	March 17, 2017	
3. Follow up with Gail regarding sampling during the monsoon season at Cove and let Freida know the timeframe	Chip Poalinelli	March 10, 2017	Complete

<sup>1</sup> See Attachment 1 to this document.

4. Email a copy of the final report from the ASPECT flyover of Rio Puerco mine to U.S. EPA Region 9, Freida White, and Dr. Benn.	Kevin Shade	March 10, 2017	Complete
5. Read through the remedy options in the Tronox Stakeholders meeting summary and let Chip know if a particular topic or idea needs to be expanded upon so that it can be included in the agenda at the next meeting	Everyone	April 28, 2017	
6. Break out the FY2016 Annual Report/Q1 Report charges in greater detail for Dr. Benn	Chip Poalinelli	April 2017	
7. Contact Juan Massey and provide him with a list of the specific activities/past performance U.S. EPA is looking for from small businesses for the road improvements at Cove	Autumn Roe	March 10, 2017	
8. Follow up with the U.S. SBA on the final date and location of the Navajo Nation training workshop on the 8a program and the HUB zone program to be held in April	Autumn Roe	March 10, 2017	
9. Determine the exact number of Navajo that have been employed through Tronox and report back to Dr. Benn	Elena Neibaur	March 17, 2017	

### Opening – Lori Lewis (Facilitator)

*Lori Lewis welcomed meeting participants to the Tronox meeting and invited each organization to provide opening statements.*

#### Opening Statements

- Darrel Yazzie (NNEPA) said he heard the Quarterly meeting in Window Rock was very beneficial. He offered a prayer from Hebrews about remembering to smile and say “thank you” before explaining that forward progress cannot be made without reviewing past obstacles.
- Nina Chester (NNOPVP) welcomed everyone and introduced Juan Massey, a new member of the executive staff who will be working on economic development. She explained that the President has made uranium cleanup a priority under his administration and he is committed to working on the Cove area, especially the watershed. Tronox is part of that effort and he expresses his appreciation to each one of you for the work you do.
- Ben Banipal (U.S. EPA Region 6) thanked meeting participants for all their hard work and the milestones they accomplished during the past two years. He requested that participants begin thinking about how resources can best be used in the future to continue this work.
- Kurt Vollbrecht, (NMED) – welcomed everyone to New Mexico. He looked forward to hearing updates on the progress that has been made and the vision for the path forward.
- Clancy Tenley (U.S. EPA Region 9) requested a round of applause for Laurie Williams (U.S. EPA Region 9) and Harrison Karr (NNDJO) for their hard work in negotiating the Tronox agreement this group benefits from. He is impressed with the strength of this diverse partnership across so many groups, states and regions.

Lori asked meeting participants to briefly introduce themselves (see attached sign-in sheet) and reviewed the meeting agenda and logistics. Chip Poalinelli (U.S. EPA Region 9) stated that there were no incomplete action items from the October meeting.

#### Uranium Commission – Harrison Karr (NNDOL)

Harrison Karr thanked Clancy for brainstorming the idea of the Uranium Commission. He explained that the Navajo Nation has a spoken but unwritten policy that waste cannot be disposed of on their land. This commission will help determine waste disposal solutions as well as many other abandoned uranium mine issues. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission.pptx.**

##### DINÉ URANIUM REMEDIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

###### Summary:

- In all, six Commissioners are now in place. Quorum requires six Commissioners plus Executive Director.
- President's office beginning process to hire Executive Director.
- Once Executive Director hired, Commission will have a quorum and may begin operations.

#### General Comments

- The Uranium Commission was proposed in the 128 Capacity Building Proposal as part of the Brownfields grant, which was very helpful.

#### Long Term Planning and our Activities – Chip Poalinelli (U.S. EPA Region 9)

Chip Poalinelli explained that the outcome for this session is to review three key areas and provide information on key activities, the timeline, where we are currently, and how each of the subprojects feed into each other. He provided an overview of long term planning efforts and explained that the overall goal of long term planning is to ensure there is enough Tronox money to finish the entire project. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Tronox March 2017 Meeting 2-23-2017.pptx.**

Mark Ripperda (U.S. EPA Region 9) provided an overview of the Quivira including the vent hole removal site evaluation, planned activities for Tronox, and the time critical removal action. He explained that for the time critical removal action, there are four vent holes with 7,000 cubic yards of soil spread between them. Various road and bridge improvements will need to be completed first in order to move forward with the removal. These improvements will benefit the Navajo community. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Tronox March 2017 Meeting 2-23-2017.pptx.**

#### General Comments and Questions

- Aren't there three sites? The third being five miles up on the mesa? Mark responded that there are actually three sites but the third one was never mined or developed. U.S. EPA went up the

mesa to look at it but will end up creating a “not a site” report for it. It can be crossed off the list. But does it need to be reclaimed or restored? Mark responded that because there was no mining activity conducted there and no structures erected, plus there is a fence around the entire site, there is no activity that needs to occur on the site for reclamation or restoration. Mark will write the report and send it to NNEPA.

- Juan Massey (NNOPVP) asked whether a contract had been issued to a Navajo-owned business. Mark responded that yes, U.S. EPA is anticipating an 8a (special designation by the U.S. Small Business Administration that allows the Federal Government to go straight to a company and place a contract with them as opposed to going through the bid/solicitation process) sole source award to a Navajo firm. U.S. EPA Region 9 is in the process of putting together the package and anticipates the award for that contract in time for field work to begin this season. It will be a several million-dollar award, which is significant.
- Will the exploratory pipes at the drill hole locations be removed along the road? Some of those holes have pipes sticking up out of the ground 2 – 3 feet high. Mark responded that U.S. EPA has never discussed those pipes with the Navajo Nation. If the pipes are related to the Quivira site and the Navajo Nation wants them removed, then this can be discussed as part of the final action. Mark will add the presence of exploratory pipes at drill holes at Quivira site to the weekly conference call agenda. He will follow up on this topic at the next upcoming conference call on March 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - One participant suggested checking for the presence other substances in the vent holes (e.g., radon), which would not be detected with a handheld meter. Mark responded that the holes are all grouted, meaning there is no connection to the ore body.

*Warren Zehner (U.S. EPA Region 6) provided an overview of Ambrosia Lake including planned activities for Tronox in the East, Central and West Geographic Sub-Areas (GSAs), Section 10, and the Section 18 residential removal. Warren explained that the East and West GSAs would need to go before the National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) as at least one of the options presented in the EE/CAs exceeds \$50 million. He also explained that a section of the West GSA had to be carved out and renamed as a subsection to the West GSA due to the CERCLA definition of a site. In Section 10, the site evaluation and EE/CA Memo have been completed and the EE/CA will soon be developed. In Section 18, a radon abatement system will be installed at a residence as the only time critical action in Ambrosia Lake. Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— R6 Tronox 2 Years\_20170215.pptx.*

#### Questions

- Dr. Benn (NNEPA) asked why there was a \$50 million cap on the project. Warren responded that there isn't a cap, it's just that \$50 million is a threshold that dictates review from the NRRB. If the amount is below that, it doesn't have to be reviewed by the NRRB. It just goes through stakeholder review, then public comment.

*Mark Purcell (U.S. EPA Region 6) provided an overview of planned activities for the groundwater investigation of the San Mateo Creek Basin within Ambrosia Lake. He explained that U.S. EPA Region 6 has completed the analysis and interpretation of the data that was collected during the Phase II water investigation and is developing the Phase II report for the groundwater. The Phase II report will contain maps and cross sections and will be presented at a future Tronox meeting. Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— R6 Tronox 2 Years\_20170215.pptx.*

## Planned Activities For Ground Water Investigation of San Mateo Creek Basin

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### Questions

- Binod Chaudhary (NNEPA) said that NNEPA provided comments on the Phase I report but has not received responses back from U.S. EPA. Mark responded that U.S. EPA has not yet responded to the comments but will do so and will also address those comments in the Phase II report, if possible.

*Chip provided an overview of Cove including planned RSEs and interim actions, remedial investigations, and planned field activities for Tronox. He also described the site investigation plan to be developed that will tie together many of the studies (e.g., future livestock study, Cove wash study, Cove farm study, etc.) in the whole Cove region. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Tronox March 2017 Meeting 2-23-2017.pptx.***

### Questions

- Freida White (NNEPA) asked whether sampling would occur before the monsoon season. Chip responded that yes, he believes that is the one seasonal event when data samples have not been collected. He will follow up with Gail by next Friday to make sure.

*Chip provided an overview on future planning. He explained that U.S. EPA is working on a long-term future financial plan that will detail the projects and activities we have to complete and the budgets of the future activities, long term planning, next steps, and milestones. Each time a milestone is reached, estimates will be reassessed. It is meant to be a living document that will complement the Program Management Plan.*

### General Comments and Questions

- Freida expressed some concerns regarding contiguous areas and using Tronox funds for contiguous mines that are not near Navajo Nation land (e.g., Section 10 of Ambrosia Lake). Chip responded that the sites are still impacting the Navajo Nation; they just need to be addressed under different actions.

#### Action Items from this Update

- Mark Ripperda will write the “not a site” report for the third Quivira site on the mesa and send it to NNEPA.
- Mark Ripperda will add the presence of exploratory pipes at drill holes at Quivira site to the weekly conference call agenda. He will follow up on this topic at the next upcoming conference call.
- Chip Poalinelli will follow up with Gail regarding sampling during the monsoon season at Cove.

#### **Rio Puerco – Kevin Shade (U.S. EPA Region 6) and Bill Auby (BLM)**

*Kevin Shade provided an update on the ASPECT flyover of the Rio Puerco mine, an area suspected of having uranium contamination near To'hajiilee. The report is now complete and Kevin will send a copy to Freida, Dr. Benn and U.S. EPA Region 9. The assessment suggests there are elevated levels of uranium at the mine and in the retention ponds. However, the ASPECT flyover suggests there is no migration of contamination, which matches the data from December. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Rio Puerco Mine.pptx.***

#### ASPECT Flight Results

- Aerial Assessment Suggests elevated levels of Uranium around the mine shaft and at the retention ponds
- Aerial Assessment suggests no migration of contamination towards To'hajiilee Chapter



#### Questions

- What is ASPECT? Warren responded that it is a plane with specialized instrument that flies low to the ground (around 300 feet) while performing transect scans. It is a very rapid, gross screening tool that helps U.S. EPA determine where to focus future removal and cleanup work.

#### Action Items from this Update

- Kevin will email a copy of the report from the ASPECT flyover of Rio Puerco mine to U.S. EPA Region 9, Freida White, and Dr. Benn.

*Bill Auby provided a timeline and history of the Rio Puerco mine. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Tronox PP Rio Bill.pptx.***

#### General Comments

- Under the Tronox settlement, there were many categories of sites in addition to the Navajo Nation abandoned uranium mines. Different special accounts were created, one of which is the 3% sites category that covers thousands of different kinds of sites across the country, not just mines. The process under consent decree is agencies would nominate a site to the trustee for claims under this category. The funding is already oversubscribed so all agencies are being asked



to prioritize their claims that they submit for under this category. It is a separate pot of TRONOX money that is dedicated and does not impact Navajo Nation TRONOX money.

- Kevin added that on March 28, 2017, a representative from NNEPA may attend the Region 6 presentation being given on this topic at the chapter meeting.
- Laurie Williams (U.S. EPA Region 9) encouraged U.S. EPA Region 6 to utilize enforcement as the best tool to get the two companies (Kerr McGee and UCNM) to cleanup Rio Puerco.

### Remedy Options – Chip Poalinelli (U.S. EPA Region 9)

*Chip explained that the goal of this session is to continue the discussion from March 2016 of possible remedy options. Within the EE/CAs there are four alternatives to waste disposal identified: (1) Cap the site (2) Build a fully containerized cell on the site (3) Consolidation of site cleanups (4) disposal at off-site licensed facility. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Tronox March 2017 Meeting 2-23-2017.pptx.** He asked meeting participants to break out into small, diverse groups of four to five to answer the following two questions:*



#### ***Are there any other disposal options or combinations that haven't been considered?***

- Disposal of PTW off site
- Backfill disposal – deeper level if “dry”
- Regional cells of several mines
- No disposal on Navajo Nation (current policy) – Uranium Commission work
- Groundwater
  - RESTORE: Clean up to standard or background (restore groundwater, drinking water standards: 30 parts per billion (ppb) in groundwater)
  - PREVENT MIGRATION: Pump and treat/address contamination
    - Do we need pump and treat?
    - Monitor natural attenuation? (MNA)
  - PREVENT MIGRATION: Alternate water support (community wells)
  - PREVENT MIGRATION: Filter on each home (point of use treatment systems/RO systems)
  - PREVENT EXPOSURE: Rural
    - POU treatment/community well
      - Treatment at the well (point of entry)

- Accumulation of radiation on filter medium
  - Long term operations and management (O&M)
    - Connect/hookup to municipality (Grants) again O&M
    - New private well
    - Existing well with point of entry treatment
- Burial in mine infrastructure
- Look at costs
- If readings are high, how do you bring numbers down? Haul away until numbers won't impact
- Phytoremediation should be eliminated (has not been successful at other mines)
- Consider on reservation versus off-reservation
  - Location may be a factor
  - Jurisdiction
- Uranium Commission
  - Ask for input?
  - Considerations?
- Navajo Nation – how do the laws apply?
  - Ask NNDOJ to consider
  - NMED laws?
- Groundwater – pump and treat
- Treatment – slurry – immobilizing
  - Is it impractical from a cost perspective?
- If capping or consolidation
  - Long-term maintenance (costs)
- Putting back in hole (expand original workings above or before the ore body to make capacity within the original mine)
  - Would we need to slurry material back in?
  - Maybe not?
- Create commercial facility on Navajo land
- Return waste underground at dry mine sites or new subsurface repository
- Create disposal site at other mine site (i.e., coal or copper pit)
- Land trade transfer from other government for repository
- Use a site already contaminated to create regional repository
  - Could be area with naturally occurring uranium
  - Haystack or Ambrosia Lake





***What would have to be considered to implement each of the disposal options?***

- Community Acceptance
- “Not in my backyard”
- Transportation risks (i.e., 7 years of trucks 7 days/week) through communities for any of the off-site options
- Groundwater/surface water contamination
- Cost
- Land withdrawal (Navajo Nation)
- O&M
- Cost
- Community desires for off-site or burial in mine adit/shaft/pit
- For burial (in mine infrastructure) need to check water contamination possibilities and structural integrity (state rules)
- Cap on site: [state] cap materials must be erosion resistant and viable for plant substrate. “Soil” is preferable. Must find nearby source for cover material (cost for transport)
- General accessibility for access and transport (if off-site option)
- Community concerns over perception that previous AML work was comprehensive and now *new* work proposed
  - Trust: confusion/mistrust with unstandardized standards for work over time
- Doubling the work and the cost in redoing work from AML
  - The politics of past monies spent but work is now deemed inadequate
- If Tronox funds are seen as Navajo money, then the additional politics
- Long-term economic development for Navajo land use and job creation for monitoring
- Off-site options:
  - Capacity? (at facilities)
  - Distance? (e.g., Utah)
  - Transportation within Navajo Nation
    - Proposed resolution to prohibit any radioactive material
    - Conflicts within Navajo between those who want off-site and those who do not want to transport it
- State (NM) believes in containment cells if liners, caps, etc. are assessed. Must prevent any leading to water (e.g., a “burrito” = “fully encapsulated”)
- Full site characterization is necessary. Each site assessment will inform appropriate disposal option
- Water/drainage pattern is important in any design because “water always wins”
- Communicating with community members because they want to see it gone. Older generation says “leave it.” Younger generation says “get it all out.”
- Variability within a community. Balance out the desires of everyone’s opinions
- Need to educate on risk scenarios
- Need to communicate in Navajo
- Laws
- Protectiveness
- Short-term disruption
- Location of repositories
- Impacts on communities
- Community concerns

- Implementation considerations (i.e., weather, site-conditions)
- Future land use (any restrictions?)
- Revegetation
- Cleanup standards levels
- Community members affected
- Long lasting impacts to environment
- Economic opportunities may be bigger for some options versus others

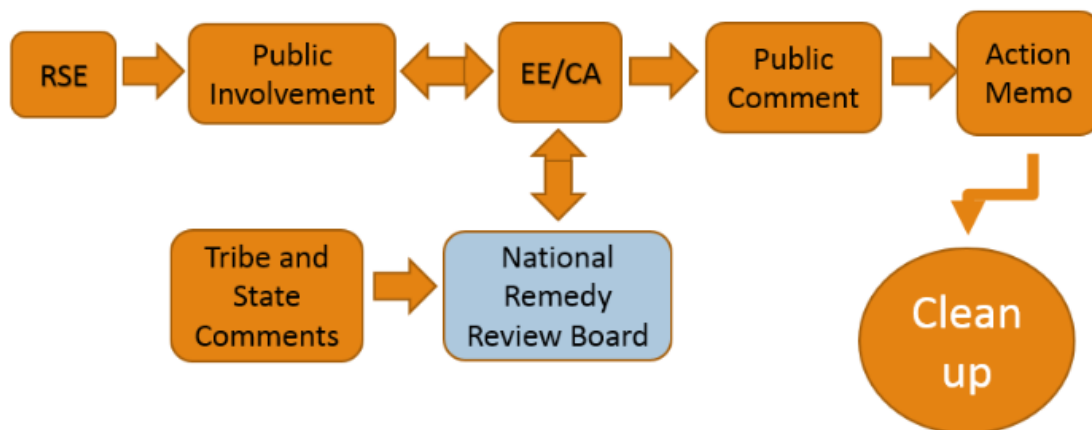
#### Action Items and Next Steps

- The information provided in the templates by each of the breakout groups will be typed up and provided in the meeting summary. Please read through the suggestions and let Chip know if a particular topic or idea needs to be expanded upon so that it can be included in the agenda at the next meeting.

#### **National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) – Sean Hogan (U.S. EPA Region 9)**

*Sean Hogan provided an overview of the NRRB, including its purpose, which sites are reviewed, the process and timing of reviews, what happens at the meetings, the role of the community, and how states and tribal governments participate. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— NRRB Presentation March 2017 Tronox mtg.ppt.***

## Timing



#### General Comments and Questions

- Priscilla asked who makes up the board. Sean responded that people from U.S. EPA Headquarters and the regions. Some have Superfund experience, legal experience, etc.
- From a state perspective, it would be helpful to know what we need to prepare. Mark responded that materials are provided a month in advance for all parties to review. Pre-decision, there are some things that remain internal to U.S. EPA but all the pros and cons, how the site is rated, and issues related to EE/CAs will be provided in advance. At the board meeting, the state and tribal government can submit up to 20 pages of anything they want (e.g.,

comments on the briefings, thesis on beliefs, what the state or Tribe wants, what they do not want, alternative options, etc.) Then the state or tribal government can say anything they want during their 20 – 30 minute session at the meeting.

- If we are presenting three options, and one of the options exceeds \$50 million, does it go to the board? Yes. As long as one of the options in your EE/CA is above \$50 million, it goes to the board, even if that option is not your preferred option. The NRRB does not look at your EE/CA. It only looks at your briefing package. You are creating a draft summary of each of your options from your EE/CA and explaining why the region has selected the preferred option.
- Will the Ambrosia Lake and Quivira meetings be on the same day? Each site must have an entire day devoted to it but we hope to schedule those two sites for back-to-back days. We are proposing to hold the meetings in Albuquerque so it is easier for the Tribe and State to attend.

#### **EE/CA Review – Mark Ripperda (U.S. EPA Region 9)**

*Mark provided an overview of the removal action process and Engineering Evaluation/Cost Estimate (EE/CA) review. He also discussed the timeline for current EE/CAs and the schedule for 2017 and 2018.*

***Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Tronox March 2017 Meeting 2-23-2017.pptx.*** He explained that the EE/CAs are almost complete. U.S. EPA is working on the effort to move Quivira waste to Ambrosia Lake, an option that is not finalized as it requires much coordination and some are against this option. U.S. EPA would like to go into the communities and do community involvement first, including those communities near the mines as well as those that the waste would have to be trucked through. This would help U.S. EPA finalize the EE/CAs. The goal is to release the final document in early 2018. The public involvement process will probably be very long as no matter what option is selected as “preferred” someone is not going to like it. The Action Memo probably will not get signed until October 2018.

#### General Comments and Questions

- Dr. Benn commented that if a community decides to build a road across some part of the reservation and just one Navajo person disagrees, then the project cannot move forward. How would U.S. EPA handle that situation? Mark responded that U.S. EPA understands that the fundamental law of talking it out and reaching consensus is very important for the Navajo. Using North East Church Rock as an example, we hired peace makers and medicine men after the EE/CA was released. Two years later, even though the majority of people agreed, there were still some community members who did not agree. However, after two years, U.S. EPA does have to do something because leaving the waste sitting there is far more detrimental to the community. U.S. EPA would like and appreciate all the help they can get from NNEPA and NNEPA Superfund to help with this process.

#### **San Mateo Mine Closure Case Study – Steve Dwyer (Dwyer Engineering)**

*Steve Dwyer presented information on the closure of the San Mateo uranium mine in New Mexico, as well as information on the ET cover and examples of other mine closures that have used ET covers.*

***Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— EPA\_Presentation\_3-2-17.pdf.***



#### General Comments and Questions

- What type of land use restrictions occur after an ET cover has been placed? Steve responded that controls on sites are very site-specific.
- Do you have experience with geomorphology (long term radioactive wastes) studies? Steve responded that it depends on the site and it depends on erosion. The worst the wastes are, the more likely it is to have one performed.
- You use water supply and demand (the graph on slide 33) to determine whether an ET cover is appropriate? Yes. Does that graph change after you put the cover on? No, that will stay the same and is dependent on the region.
- Do ET covers take into account freeze/thaw depths? Yes.
- U.S. EPA Regions 6 and 9 will speak later about the long-term monitoring (or lack thereof) regarding ET covers.

#### **Financial Update – Chip Poalinelli (U.S. EPA Region 9)**

Chip passed out a handout that identifies all the Tronox field work that is planned for the 2017 and 2018 seasons in Region 6 (**please see R6 Tronox Activities Handout\_20170223.docx for details**) and in Region 9 (**please see Tronox Activities Handout 2-22-2017.docx for details**). He also presented information on the FY2016 Annual Report/Q1 financial report charges, which he will break out in greater detail for Dr. Benn. **Please see PowerPoint slide file for presentation details— Tronox March 2017 Meeting 2-23-2017.pptx**. Finally, Chip presented the FY17 Final Project List and discussed and distributed two additional handouts regarding the list, including the Approval and Interim Funding Projections for Implementation of the Tronox Settlement for FY2017 memo signed on January 6, 2017 by Clancy, and the Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines FY2017 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Summary.

## Tronox FY2017 Projects

<b>Region 9</b>	
• Project I: Quivira Mines Removal Pre-Design Activities	~\$400,000
• Project II: Quivira Mines Utilities Rerouting	~\$500,000
• Project III: Quivira Mines Groundwater Assessment	~\$1,000,000
• Project IV: Mine Category Assessment Protocol Reconnaissance	~\$200,000*
• Project V: Cove Chapter Emergency Responses/Time Critical Actions	~\$200,000
• Project VI: Tronox Data Management Portal:	~\$300,000*
• Project VII: Cove Wash Watershed Assessment Follow-Up	~\$600,000
• Project XIII: Initiate Cove Remedial Investigations	~\$1,200,000
• Project IX: Cove Livestock Sampling	~\$500,000
• Project X: Cooperative Agreements and Grants for Navajo Nation and Training/Education Institutions (NSP, AML, Dine' College, etc.)	~\$1,200,000
<b>Region 6</b>	
• Project XI: Non-time Critical Removal Site Evaluation and EE/CA on the Central Geographic Sub-Area, Ambrosia Lake:	~\$2,060,000
• Project XII: Time Critical Residential Removal Action for the Tronox NAUM Section 18 Mine Site, Ambrosia Lake	~\$50,000
• Project XIII: Ground Water Investigation Tronox NAUM Ambrosia Lake Impact Area	\$0.0

\*Indicates a ongoing project

**Total Proposed Projects FY2017 = \$8,210,00**



Autumn Roe (U.S. EPA Region 9) presented a contracting update, including the hiring of Maria Alberty (U.S. EPA Region 9) to serve as the Contracting Officer for the Tronox contract work. Autumn also explained that U.S. EPA received the proposals for the assessment contract (to assess the mines on the Navajo Nation) and is reviewing them now. A request for information (RFI) was sent out for the AMRAX contract, which U.S. EPA will use for the remedial construction portion of the work. U.S. EPA is currently evaluating ideas and options for road construction at the Cove site. Autumn identified six Navajo firms that are on the 8a list for the construction. She contacted all six, heard back from four, has met with three of them and will meet with the fourth soon. The biggest issue with the firms is a lack of past performance or experience of a similar scope.

### General Comments and Questions

- Can the past performance be part of a joint venture? If the firm has the appropriate experience doing the specific type of work through a joint venture, then that works. But we do not want to see a small business team with a large business and then all the work is performed by the large business. We cannot give the work to a small business if they have no experience actually doing the specific work because this is difficult and technical work.
- Harrison asked if there is an effort to provide opportunities to smaller businesses in order for them to gain the experience. Right now, U.S. EPA does not have opportunities to provide to them, which is why we are looking to the Navajo Nation to provide those sorts of opportunities.
- Juan asked whether Autumn could provide a list of the specific activities/past performance they are looking for. Yes, Autumn will contact Juan within two weeks.
- Freida asked whether this is for the Interim Action road building? Yes, the 'meet and greets' held this past Monday were focused on the road construction. We wanted to get a general sense of the businesses' capabilities.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (U.S. SBA) has expressed a desire to provide training to the Navajo Nation on the 8a program and the historically underutilized business zone (HUB) zone program. They proposed April 17<sup>th</sup>. U.S. EPA would like to participate. We will be there but will not be running the training.



- Dr. Benn asked how many Navajo had been employed as a result of Tronox. As of last year, there were 111. What is the number now? We have employed a few more, but not that many since it is the off season. We expect that number to raise once spring field work begins at Quivira. However, Elena Neibaur (U.S. EPA Region 9) and Clancy will follow up on the exact number and get back to Dr. Benn.

#### Action Items and Next Steps

- Chip will break out the FY2016 Annual Report/Q1 Report charges in greater detail for Dr. Benn.
- Autumn will contact Juan and provide him with a list of the specific activities/past performance U.S. EPA is looking for from small businesses for the road improvements at Cove.
- Autumn will follow up with the U.S. SBA on the final date and location of the Navajo Nation training on the 8a program and the HUB zone program to be held in April.
- Elena Neibaur will determine the exact number of Navajo that have been employed through Tronox and report back to Dr. Benn.

#### **Closing – Lori Lewis (Facilitator)**

*Lori Lewis reviewed action items and the bike rack.*

#### Bike Rack

- Look at contiguous sites around Ambrosia Lake – COMPLETE
- Provide consistency on non-Tronox and Tronox cleanup levels
  - This requires follow up. Couple this with a risk scenario discussion (open space vs. residential)
  - Chris Villarreal/Mark Ripperda to lead this topic at the next meeting.
  - Freida requested that agricultural cleanup levels be included

*Chip explained that Lori can create and distribute an anonymous survey to better determine what to focus on and prioritize at future Tronox meetings so we can better optimize and improve our efforts. After this meeting, participants will receive an email with a Survey Monkey link for a ten question survey. There may be some individual follow-up conversations if desired and/or appropriate. Lori will then prepare a report with results that we can discuss during the next Tronox meeting.*

*Nina thanked meeting participants for their time and contributions. She mentioned that it can be overwhelming at times to consider everything at once. But the expertise in this room is valued by the Navajo people and she encourages everyone to continue their efforts.*

*Kurt thanked meeting participants for the work that is being done and the information that is being exchanged. He also thanked Clancy and assured him that he would be missed.*

*Ben appreciates everyone's hard work. He gave Chip, Kevin and Lori a round of applause. Finally, he thanked Clancy for bringing this group together and asked that the group continue the legacy that Clancy is leaving us of working together across regions and groups.*

*Clancy thanked Ben and Kurt for their kind words. He is impressed by the depth and diversity of skill in this room and considers it an honor to be part of it. It is amazing to see how people from such different backgrounds, jurisdictions and interest s can come together to work.*

# Attachment 1: March 2, 2017 Tronox Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Name: NAUM Tronox Stakeholders Meeting  
Date: March 2, 2017 Location: Albuquerque, NM

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	Title	Agency	Phone	E-Mail
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Meeting Name: NAUM Tronox Stakeholders Meeting  
Date: March 2, 2017 Location: Albuquerque, NM

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

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MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET				
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MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET				
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